at least two electrodes; and

a polymer arranged in a manner which causes a portion of the polymer to deflect from a first position with a first area to a second position with a second area in response to a change in electric field, wherein an initial area of the portion of the polymer is elastically pre-strained to the first area by a factor in the range of about 1.5 times to 50 times to improve the mechanical response of the transducer when it deflects from the first position to the second position.

24. (Amended) A transducer for converting electrical energy to mechanical energy, the transducer comprising:

at least two electrodes; and

a polymer arranged in a manner which causes a portion of the polymer to deflect from a first position with a first length to a second position with a second length in response to a change in electric field provided by the at least two electrodes, wherein the portion deflects with a linear strain between about 50 percent and about 215 percent between the first length and the second length in response to the change in electric field.

REMARKS

Claims 1-8, 10, 11-17, 23-26 and 53-59 remain in the application. Claims 1-8, 11-17, and 23-26 and 53-59 are rejected. Claim 10 is objected to. Claims 1 and 24 have been amended. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the rejections set forth in this Office Action in light of the following remarks.

Applicants also acknowledge allowability of claim 10 if rewritten in independent form, but believe all pending claims to now be allowable.